

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A retaining panel for a body of water, the retaining panel comprising:
- a continuous central portion having a first end and a second end;
- a first side portion integrally connected to and extending rearwardly at a first angle from said first end of said central portion, said first side portion having a rear end;
- a second side portion integrally connected to and extending rearwardly at a second angle from said second end of said central portion, said second side portion having a rear end;
- a first flange integrally connected to and extending from said rear end of said first side portion, said first flange having a proximal portion and a distal portion, said distal portion of said first flange defining a female connecting portion; and
- a second flange integrally connected to and extending from said rear end of said second side portion, said second flange having a proximal portion and a distal portion, said distal portion of said second flange defining a male connecting portion;
- wherein said retaining panel is adapted to be connected to a substantially similar, adjacent retaining panel by inserting said male connecting portion of said retaining panel into said female connecting portion of said adjacent retaining panel.
2. The retaining panel of claim 1 wherein said retaining panel is adapted to be interlocked with said adjacent retaining panel by inserting said male connecting portion of said retaining panel into said female connecting portion of said adjacent retaining panel.
3. The retaining panel of claim 1 wherein said retaining panel is of substantially uniform thickness.

4. The retaining panel of claim 1 wherein an intermediate portion of said central portion has a substantially level outer surface approximately between said first end and said second end.

5. The retaining panel of claim 1 wherein an intermediate portion of said first side portion has a substantially level outer surface approximately between said first end of said central portion and said rear end of said first side portion.

6. The retaining panel of claim 1 wherein an intermediate portion of said second side portion has a substantially level outer surface approximately between said second end of said central portion and said rear end of said second side portion.

7. The retaining panel of claim 1 wherein said proximal portion of said first flange has a substantially level outer surface approximately between said rear end of said first side portion and said distal portion of said first flange.

8. The retaining panel of claim 1 wherein said proximal portion of said second flange has a substantially level outer surface approximately between said rear end of said second side portion and said distal portion of said second flange.

9. The retaining panel of claim 1 wherein said first angle is approximately equal to said second angle.

10. The retaining panel of claim 1 wherein the length of said first side portion is approximately equal to the length of said second side portion.

11. The retaining panel of claim 10 wherein said central portion is approximately parallel to said proximal portions of said first flange and said second flange.

12. The retaining panel of claim 1 wherein said central portion is approximately parallel to said proximal portions of said first flange and said second flange.

13. The retaining panel of claim 1 wherein said retaining panel is comprised of polyvinyl chloride.

14. ~~A retaining panel for a body of water, said retaining panel comprising:~~

a continuous central portion having a first end and a second end;

a first side portion integrally connected to and extending at a first angle from said first end of said central portion, said first side portion having a rear end;

a second side portion integrally connected to and extending at a second angle from said second end of said central portion, said second angle approximately equal to said first angle, said second side portion having a rear end;

a first flange integrally connected to and extending at a third angle from said rear end of said first side portion, said first flange having a proximal portion and a distal portion, said distal portion of said first flange defining a female connecting portion; and

a second flange integrally connected to and extending at a fourth angle from said rear end of said second side portion, said second flange having a proximal portion and a distal portion, said distal portion of said second flange defining a male connecting portion;

wherein said retaining panel is adapted to be connected to a substantially similar, adjacent retaining panel by inserting said male connecting portion of said retaining panel into said female connecting portion of said adjacent retaining panel.

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15. The retaining panel of claim 15 wherein said retaining panel is adapted to be interlocked with said adjacent retaining panel by inserting said male connecting portion of said retaining panel into said female connecting portion of said adjacent retaining panel.

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The retaining panel of claim ¹⁵14 wherein said third angle is approximately equal to said fourth angle.

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The retaining panel of claim ¹⁵14 wherein the length of said first side portion is approximately equal to the length of said second side portion.

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The retaining panel of claim ¹⁵14 wherein said retaining panel is comprised of polyvinyl chloride.

19. A retaining panel of one-piece construction for a body of water, said retaining panel comprising:

a central portion having a first end and a second end;

a first side portion integrally connected to and extending at a first angle from said first end of said central portion, said first side portion having a rear end;

a second side portion integrally connected to and extending at a second angle from said second end of said central portion, said second side portion having a rear end, said second angle approximately equal to said first angle, the length of said second side portion approximately equal to the length of said first side portion;

a first flange integrally connected to and extending at a third angle from said rear end of said first side portion, said first flange having a proximal portion and a distal portion, said distal portion of said first flange defining a female connecting portion; and

a second flange integrally connected to and extending at a fourth angle from said rear end of said second side portion, said fourth angle approximately equal to said third angle, said second flange having a proximal portion and a distal portion, said distal portion of said second flange defining a male connecting portion;

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wherein said retaining panel is adapted to be interlocked with a substantially similar, adjacent retaining panel by inserting said male connecting portion of said retaining panel into said female connecting portion of said adjacent retaining panel.

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20. The retaining panel of claim ²¹19 wherein said retaining panel is comprised of polyvinyl
5 chloride.

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